

In re Appln. of Peterson et al.
Application No. 10/791,072

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. An Office action dated November 9, 2004 is presently pending in the application. Claims 1-6 and 13-14 were amended, Claims 27-32 have been added and no claims were cancelled; therefore, Claims 1-32 are pending in the application.

The Objections to Claims 1 and 14

Claims 1 and 14 were objected to for informalities. Applicants have amended the claims in accordance with the suggestions in the Office action, and thus submit that the objections to the claims should be withdrawn.

The Rejections of the Claim Based Upon Prior Art

Claims 1-4, 7, 11, 12, 14-18 and 22-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 2,368,220 to Hinds. Claims 5, 6 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hinds* and further in view of the French document number 2396490-A to Etab Semetns Leopol (hereinafter referred to as "Leopn"). Claims 8, 9, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hinds*, and further in view of U.S. Patent Number 5,210,911 to Brown et al. Claims 10 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hinds* and *Brown* and further in view of U.S. Patent Number 2,229,935 to Powers. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a sleeping bag having a cinch mechanism for maintaining the sleeping bag in a rolled configuration. The cinch mechanism includes an elongate flexible material connected to the sleeping bag and configured so as to form a loop and a cord connected to the sleeping bag. A clasp is connected to the chord. The loop, the cord, and the clasp are arranged and configured such that when the sleeping bag is rolled, the elongate

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flexible material wraps around the sleeping bag, the cord is extended through the loop, and the clasp is attached to a portion of the cord so as to hold the loop and chord in place. *Hinds* discloses a sleeping bag that may be held in position by a retaining rope 34 having a ring 35 at one end thereof and a snap fastener 36 at the other end thereof. *Hinds* does not disclose an elongate flexible material connected to the sleeping bag and configured so as to form a loop or a chord connected to the sleeping bag. Moreover, the reference does not teach pulling on the clasp relative to the loop pulling at connection points for the cord and elongate flexible material and thereby tightening the roll of the sleeping bag. For at least these reasons, the rejection of Claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-4 have been amended to more particularly point out that the cord and/or elongate flexible material are connected directly to and extend from particular portions of the sleeping bag. As set forth above, the rope 34 in *Hinds* is not connected to the sleeping bag; thus, these claims are not anticipated or made obvious by *Hinds*. Similar amendments have been made to Claims 5 and 6.

Claim 13 has been amended to more particularly point out that the loop comprises two connections of the elongate flexible material, with the loop being formed by the elongate flexible material between the two connections. This feature is not disclosed by *Hinds* or *Leopn*.

Claim 14 is directed to a sleeping bag rolled into a roll having an elongate flexible material connected to the sleeping bag and configured so as to form a loop, the loop extending in one direction around the roll, and a cord connected to the sleeping bag and extending in an opposite direction around the roll and removably attached to the loop for maintaining the sleeping bag in the roll. As with Claim 1, the connections of the elongate flexible material and the cord to the sleeping bag are not disclosed in the cited references. Moreover, the pulling of the chord relative to the loop causing pulling at connection points for the chord and the elongate flexible material and thereby tightening the roll of the sleeping bag is also not shown in the cited references. For at least these reasons, the rejections of Claim 14 should be withdrawn.

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For the sake of clarity, the independent claims and some of the dependant claims of the application are discussed in this Amendment. Applicants submit that the independent claims are allowable, and therefore the remaining dependent claims are allowable at least because they are dependent upon allowed claims. Nevertheless, Applicants submit that the dependent claims further define subject matter not shown or made obvious by the prior art.

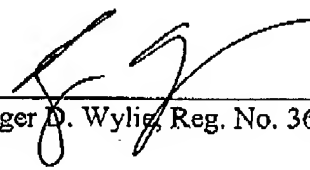
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-32 define patentable subject matter, and that the application is in good and proper condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully solicited.

If the foregoing does not result in a Notice of Allowance in the application, Applicants earnestly solicit the Examiner to call the undersigned at 206-521-5984.

Respectfully submitted,



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